

NEMOCESTES VAN DYKE, 1936 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION AND DESIGNATION OF TYPE
SPECIES. Z.N.(S.) 2488

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In this application it is proposed that the current usage of the generic name *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936, be maintained by designating *Geoderces incomptus* Horn, 1876, as its type species, while designating *Trachyploeus melanothrix* Kirby, 1837, as type species of *Geoderces* Horn, 1876, thereby making *Geoderces* Horn a junior synonym of *Phyxelis* Schoenherr, 1843, p. 122.

2. The genus *Geoderces* was established by Horn, 1876, p. 70, with the designation of *Trachyploeus melanothrix* Kirby, 1837, p. 202 as type species (a misidentified type species) and the description of a new species. Casey, 1888, p. 264, described a single new species in *Geoderces*. Species of this genus were listed in numerous taxonomic and economic publications in the early 1900s, e.g. Pierce, 1909, 1913; Blatchley & Leng, 1916; Yothers, 1916; Baker, 1930; Keifer, 1933 and Wilcox *et al.*, 1934.

3. *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936, p. 22 was established as a replacement name for *Geoderces* Horn because the latter is based upon a misidentified type species. Horn's specimens were not *Trachyploeus melanothrix* Kirby (a junior synonym of *Phyxelis rigidus* (Say, 1831, p. 11)). Van Dyke correctly renamed this misidentified type species (*horni* Van Dyke, p. 25) but his replacement name for the genus (*Nemocestes*) is not valid, because the 1961 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature requires an application to the Zoological Commission under Article 70(a) for a ruling on the type species. He designated '*Nemocestes incomptus* (Horn)' (original binomen *Geoderces incomptus* Horn, 1876, p. 72) as type species of *Nemocestes* (p. 23).

4. Following Van Dyke's revision, the name *Nemocestes* has been in universal use for nearly 50 years, e.g. Lona, 1937; Hanson & Webster, 1938, 1941; Van Dyke, 1938, 1953; Foster, 1942; van Emden, 1950; Johansen & Brannon, 1955; Clark, 1956; Eide, 1959, 1966; Breakey, 1961; Rosenstiel, 1963; Cram, 1964, 1972, 1978; Kissinger, 1964; Hatch, 1971 and Burke & Anderson, 1976. To maintain stability in this economically important group it is recommended here that *Nemocestes* be validated.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genera *Geoderces* Horn, 1876 and *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936, and then to designate *Trachyploeus melanothrix* Kirby, 1837, as type species of *Geoderces* Horn,

- 1876, automatically making the latter a junior synonym of *Phyxeles* Schoenherr, 1843;
- (b) to designate *Geoderces incomptus* Horn, 1876, as type species of *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936;
- (2) to place the generic name *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *incomptus* Horn, 1876, as published in the binomen *Geoderces incomptus* (specific name of the type species of *Nemocestes* Van Dyke, 1936) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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